

**Lanesboro City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Council Chambers @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Rahn, Allen, Jeannette & Dybing

**Absent:** O'Connor

**Visitors:** Kim Fournier, Kelly Jean Ohl, Kathy Thiss, Amy Dyreson, Deb Danielson, Rachel Bearbower, Robert Culbertson, Jan Meyer, Jade Wangen, Brian Luna (Chamber), Dillon Dombrovski (Yaggy Colby), Steve Thatcher and Paul Stewart (Thatcher Engineering)

**REGULAR MEETING:**

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Rahn. Additions or changes to the agenda included the removal of EDA under Committee Meetings and the addition of yellowing a parking space at the corner of Elmwood and Highway 250. The agenda, with changes, was approved with a motion by Jeannette, second by Dybing, motion carried.

The minutes of the July 6<sup>th</sup>, Joint Meeting were approved as printed with a motion by Dybing, second Jeannette, motion carried.

**PERSONS WITH BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:**

**Paul Stewart and Steve Thatcher – Thatcher Engineering:** Paul Stewart approached the Council and introduced himself noting that he worked on the engineering report for the dam when he was employed by Bonestroo. Stewart noted that he is now working for Thatcher Engineering and wanted to continue working with the City and introduced the owner Steve Thatcher and noted that Thatcher Engineering has been in existence for 11 years with 22 years of experience in engineering prior to opening his own business. Both gentlemen noted that they hope to work with the City and if there are any questions in regards to the dam that they are available for consultation.

**Dillon Dombrovski – Yaggy Colby:** Dillon approached the Council and noted that all aspects of the 2008 Street Project are complete. He noted that he is asking for the final payment, except for retainage, to be paid to the contractor. He said over all it went very well and he was very glad that the Council chose to do the final coat in the spring. Dillon asked if the Council had any comment or questions. Allen noted that she felt over all the project went very well, however she hoped that the communication between the contractors and property owners would be improved. Mayor Rahn thanked Dillon for the work done on the project.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**Library – July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - Allen:** Ceil noted that the Summer Reading Program has been a great success and that the Library has implemented the cuts that they suggested in February.

**Park – July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - Rahn:** Rahn noted that there is still a Park Board Opening and that the Park Board discussed changes to the contract such as time limits on the band and clarify the time that alcohol should stop being served. Also, they discussed handicap accessibility in the Park. Noted that the Park Board would be seeking a grant for playground equipment.

**HOUSEKEEPING:**

**Bullying Issue:** Due to the amount of visitors Mayor Rahn moved up the item of bullying so that the people visiting could be heard. Ceil Allen spoke up noting that she had asked the issue to be brought before the Council due to the recent articles and information that has been shared with her regarding discussions on bullying within the school system. Allen noted that the bullying is not just happening at the school, but everywhere and she feels as a community, Lanesboro needs to be aware and get people involved. She noted that there are actual families moving out of Lanesboro due to this issue, so it does directly affect the City. She noted that not only do we want to protect the victims that are being

bullying, but that we truly need to seek out help for those that are doing the bullying as well. Mayor Rahn asked if anyone from the audience wished to address the Council.

Butch Culbertson: Culbertson asked the City Attorney what the ramifications for the school with this issue. Manion noted that not being the legal council for the school, he would assume that the issues of negligence and liability would be addressed and he was sure that the school would already be addressing those items. Manion noted that if the behavior becomes criminal, police would need to be notified to take action against the violators.

Debra Danielson: Danielson noted that she is aware of three families that consist of seven children that are removing themselves from the school due to this issue and there possibly could be more. Danielson noted that she feels that the schools approach is that if you do not deal with it, it will go away. She is asking the Council to back up the citizens and take a community action against this issue. Danielson noted that some of the older kids are teaching the younger kids to do things to get them in the “group”. Danielson noted that she and other parents/friends/grandparents are taking turns monitoring the skateboard park to protect the kids. She noted that there are no lights after 9:30pm and that the City should shut off the middle section of lights, not the end ones. She noted that there is a double gate for the entrance to the skate park and cars can get in there and squeal tires. She noted that garbage needs to be picked up and that the city nor community members should not have an ignoring eye. She asked if the City could change the curfew ordinance because either it is not being enforced or it is too lenient.

Kim Fournier: Fournier noted that just saying these things will not help, they need the ability to enforce it, could there be an ordinance in regards to bullying. Manion noted that there would not be an ordinance for bullying; however the physical acts could be prosecuted as long as they are turned in. Fournier also asked if Chief Schultz could do a “training of families” so that families know what they have the right to do.

Danielson noted that the bullying that has been going on is as follows: Verbal, being threatened to be shot, physical, stabbed with a pencil, choke until pass out, knife to the neck for a cell phone, restraining orders due to being chased with golf clubs in the hallway, etc.

Culbertson noted that he asks the City to visit the skate park more often and make rounds to monitor the area. He also thanks the Council for allowing them time to speak, chairs to sit in and a comfortable, welcoming environment.

Kelly Jean Ohl: Ohl noted that we as community members need to redefine the culture that we are creating, noting that if that does not change this type of behavior will continue.

Culbertson questioned if acts such as these could be published in the paper, to which Manion noted that they could not since they are juveniles, to which Culbertson asked if the acts could be put in without the names, Manion was unsure of the answer to that.

Kathy Thiss: Thiss noted that she was concerned with the curfew and noted that she would like a copy of the ordinance but also felt that all officers need to be informed of the details of it and make sure that it is enforced. She also noted that it would be good to publish it in the paper. She thanked the Council for taking the time to listen.

Mayor Rahn asked Vickerman to write a letter on behalf of the City Council to the School Board offering a partnership or assistance to work on this issue; Allen noted that she would be willing to assist.

**Paying of the Bills:** Dybing made a motion to the pay the bills as presented, second Jeannette, motion carried.

**Building Sign Request:** It was noted that the Chamber will research the idea of a kiosk directing visitors to the businesses that are not in the direct foot traffic areas.

**Turkey Federation Liquor Permit:** Rahn made motion to approve the Liquor License, second Jeannette, motion carried.

**Union Prairie Bingo Permit:** Jeannette made a motion to approve the bingo permit for Buffalo Bill Days, second Dybing, motion carried.

**Removal of Parking Spot at Corner of HWY 250 and Elmwood:** Vickerman noted that Street Superintendent and Chief Schultz are asking to have this parking spot removed due to safety. It was noted that when a vehicle is parked there it is difficult visually for vehicles coming down Elmwood towards Parkway/HWY 250 and also difficult for those approaching the downtown area from Parkway/HWY 250 South. Vickerman noted that she did have a chance to discuss the business “Essence”, which would be affected and he noted that he would be okay with it, but asked if a bike rack could be placed there. Vickerman noted that she has not had a chance to discuss with the Legion yet. Allen made a motion to remove the space due to safety concerns; Dybing seconded the motion for discussion. Dybing asked if the space could be a handicap space or a timed drop off area. Mayor Rahn noted that Vickerman need to redirect those questions to Drake and Schultz and to contact the Legion for their thoughts on the issue. Allen rescinded her motion, along with Dybing.

**ADJOURN:**

Jeannette moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m., second by Allen, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Vickerman  
City Administrator / Clerk